

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2977
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
EXCESS PRODUCTION OF PADDY
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government are aware of the excess production of paddy in the country;
- (b) if so, the quantity of production as compared to the last year;
- (c) whether excess production has caused the problem of storage;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government have initiated steps in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): The estimates of paddy are not compiled. However, generally rice production is taken to be 2/3rd of paddy production. The estimated production (advance) of rice for 2001-02 is 76.42 million tonnes as compared to advance estimates of 86.30 million tonnes for 2000-01.

(c),(d)&(e): No, Sir. The availability of space with the FCI depends upon the trend of procurement and offtake/sale of foodgrains in the procuring/consuming States. The FCI also creates additional storage capacity by construction of its own godowns and plinths, besides hiring storage capacity available with the agencies. The field officers of FCI have also been delegated full powers for hiring additional storage capacity as and when considered necessary. Keeping in view the requirement for storage of rice, FCI has given 7 years guarantee for creation of additional storage capacity of about 77.79 lakh MTs by the State Warehousing Corporations, State Governments and Central Warehousing Corporation in Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. In addition, FCI has also advertised for creation of conventional godowns on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis through Private Sector participation at 78 locations involving 5.88 lakh MTs of storage capacity in 14 States.

The States which have adopted the decentralized scheme of procurement, make their own arrangements for storage of foodgrains. Besides, this stocks are also held by the State Agencies in their godowns.